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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT Metal Products Plant in Otmuchow

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

a report containing fragmentary information on a metal products plant in Otmuchow (N-50-28, E 17-07).

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COUNTRY : Poland

DATE: 3 October 1957

SUBJECT : Metal Products Plant in Otmuchow

NO. OF PAGES: 2

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1. The Otmuchow Metal Products Plant (Otmuchowskie Zaklady Wytobow Metalowych) in Otmuchow (N 50-28, E 17-07) was a small workshop-type factory. It employed about 200 workers, of whom about 40 percent were women. Its administrative office and one section of the workshop were housed in a one-storied, 10 meter x 20 meter brick building, located in the center of the town. The remaining part of the workshop was housed in a wooden, post-War II barrack measuring 10 meters x 40 meters and located near the railroad station in Otmuchow.
2. The plant was probably subordinate, through the Central Administration of Metal Products Industry (Centralny Zarzad Przemyslu Wytobow Metalowych) in Poznan, to the Ministry of Small Industry and Crafts. The official director of the plant up to June 1957 was Marian Sysak, who had been assigned to this position only because of his political merits. The actual director, however, was the technical manager, Wojciak (fnu), who was a highly skilled mechanic.
3. The plant worked on two shifts and produced all types of chains, hooks, iron cramps, and miners' picks. The manufactured products were delivered directly to individual coal mines in Silesia. Production was only on an order-to-order basis and usually was not implemented on schedule; such production lags were very often the subject of criticism in the local press.
4. Because the machinery and installations of the plant were very old, there were frequent breakdowns which sometimes forced the plant to stop production for a week at a time. Raw and other materials necessary for production were bought by the plant from different commercial centers. There were shortages of coke, coal and oxygen, and occasionally the plant had to ask for loans and other help in this respect from the Otmuchow Sugar Refinery. The plant used electric current supplied from the national power net.

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5. The majority of the plant workers came from neighboring villages. The plant had a shortage of skilled laborers because working conditions were so bad in the old, unheated and dirty workshops that it was difficult to find anyone willing to work there. The average wages were from 570 to 1,700 zlotys monthly.
6. About 10 percent of the employees were members of the PZPR and were organized into the Basic Party Organization (POP) of the plant. However, the local POP was not active and the majority of workers belonged only for opportunistic reasons. There was no Polish Youth circle in the plant.

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